

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today's edition of the New York Times on page A-21 has an article which I think would be very interesting to the Members of this House. The headline is "Anti-missile Systems Flaw Was Covered Up, Critic Says."

Now, this House is due to vote on a defense authorization bill today, \$2.2 billion of which will go for an anti-missile defense system. This report in the New York Times claims that the Pentagon and its contractors have tried to hide failures that have shown up in the testing of this system where the system cannot distinguish between decoys and the real thing.

Now, this New York Times article points out there are allegations of fraud, there are allegations of a company faking antimissile tests and evaluations of computer programs, and that there is an elaborate hoax involved here.

Save the taxpayers \$2.2 billion. Re-commit this legislation. Do not vote for a hoax. Do not vote for fraud.

#### SSI FRAUGHT WITH WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the 1970s, the Federal Government created the SSI program to assist the elderly, the blind and the disabled. Since the 1970s, the program has become fraught with waste, fraud and abuse. Prisoners, illegal aliens and drug addicts all drain resources from this program. Saddest of all, parents are getting their children to lie in order to bilk SSI benefits from the government.

For example, two parents in Michigan had their children lie to doctors about their medical condition so they could receive \$42,639 in SSI benefits per year. Meanwhile, they locked their children in the basement of their home, physically abused them and forced them to steal for them.

The Federal Government should not be subsidizing child abusers, especially with taxpayer moneys reserved for the elderly and the disabled. As we decide spending levels in our budget, let us also focus on eliminating waste, fraud and abuse from the Federal Government.

#### AMERICAN BORDERS WIDE OPEN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, there is no war on drugs or terrorism in America. There is a war on kids. There are more prisons, more police, more Federal agents, more drugs than ever. It is unbelievable.

The reason is very simple. Our borders are wide open. Wide open, ladies and gentlemen. Heroin and cocaine coming in by the ton, and a nuclear warhead can literally be smuggled across the border.

Beam me up. A nation that does not secure their borders is a nation without security. Today we can pass the Traficant amendment that does not mandate but allows the use of troops on the border.

I yield back Osama bin Laden someday perhaps at our border, and that is no joke.

#### INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we can no longer sit back and watch as American children are being kept apart from their parents. As a father and a grandfather, I cannot imagine the pain these parents and families go through on a daily basis. Today I will tell the story of Montasir Imran Khan, who was abducted to Saudi Arabia by his father Imran Mohammed Khan.

Montasir was born in 1992, and when he was 5 years old he was taken by his father. His mother has had no contact with him and is not sure of his exact whereabouts. Montasir was issued a U.S. passport and it was used for travel on August 23, 1997. He and his father were confirmed on a flight from Seattle to London, and it is believed they traveled from there to Saudi Arabia. The father has a temporary residence there and had threatened to take Montasir to that country.

Unfortunately, international child abduction can happen to anyone's child, and this is the biggest reason why we all need to work together rather than bury our heads in the sand and ignore this issue.

Keeping children safe has become my mission while serving in the House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, I challenge every one of my colleagues to join me and help bring our children home.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, America is the most prosperous Nation on Earth and yet some seniors are forced to choose between putting food on the table and the prescription drugs they need to lead healthy and productive lives. That is just not right.

Republicans are working to make sure that is a choice seniors no longer have to make. While I share the goal of

President Clinton and Democrats in Congress, their proposal may endanger existing drug coverage that some seniors already have.

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It could give the Federal government too heavy a hand in controlling drug benefits and deny seniors the right to select the coverage that best fits their needs.

Republicans have a voluntary plan to make prescription drug coverage affordable and available to American seniors. Republicans are working to protect seniors from runaway drug costs so that their retirement remains secure and they have greater peace of mind. That is a brighter future for every American.

#### IRAN MUST END ABUSES OF HUMAN, CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 13 innocent individuals who were arbitrarily arrested by the Iranian regime over one year ago solely because of their religious beliefs. The 13 are Jewish. In Iran that means you can be arrested and detained without formal charges, denied bail and presumed guilty of spying, despite the absence of evidence or motive.

As some Members of Congress seek to engage the Iranian regime to permit business arrangements, I urge all of us to consider the fate of these 13 people. We need to send a message to the mullahs in Tehran that only when Iran honors the will of the majority of its people, stops building weapons of mass destruction and ends abuses of human civil and religious rights, will the United States again consider engaging Iran as a legitimate member of the diplomatic community and the global economy.

#### PROVIDING AFFORDABLE PRE- SCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Republicans believe that no Medicare beneficiary should have to choose between putting food on the table or purchasing the prescription drugs they need to live. Yet that is just what the poorest of American seniors are forced to do.

According to a 1996 study, there are 9.6 million Medicare recipients who do not have prescription drug coverage. Many of these individuals have incomes below \$15,000 a year. They are